

Standard USG-5: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the concept of personal and civic rights and responsibilities and the role of the citizen in American democracy.

USG-5.2 Summarize commonly held personal and civic responsibilities and their significance in maintaining a democracy, including voting, serving as a juror, obeying the law, paying taxes, and serving in the military. (P)

Taxonomy Level: 2.4-B Understand Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

There will have been no previous knowledge of this indicator through the Social Studies Academic Standards. Students may have had exposure in courses designed to teach character education or civil responsibility. (3-5.7; 4-4.5)

It is essential for students to know the manner in which these characteristics are significant in advancing a democratic, republican government. Students should recognize that manifestation of civic traits guarantees protection of core principles – limited government, popular sovereignty, etc., and without civic participation to check political power, individual rights would be jeopardized and the American political system imperiled. Students should be able to attribute a direct correlation between the five responsibilities mentioned and democratic freedoms while defending these responsibilities as critical to the achievement of an autonomous, self-governing people.

It is not essential for students to rank these traits in order of importance or to characterize them as “more important” or “less important”.

Assessment guidelines: The objective of this indicator is to summarize basic civic responsibilities and to explain their significance in maintaining a democracy; therefore, the primary focus of assessment should be to generalize major points about the role of these responsibilities. It would be appropriate to require students to debate the necessity of these civic duties in securing a democracy.